

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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The following information includes changes or additions to referenced report:

Reorganization of the 9 Tank Division

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1. The following changes occurred in the 9 Tank Division (now 9 Tank Brigade) from January to April 1955:

a. The personnel decrease in the division mainly affected the rifle reconnaissance battalion, which was decreased by one third and to a strength of 350-400. These changes occurred in January, February, and March 1955, and the new smaller unit (formerly battalion) was called Motopolk (Moto Regiment). Personnel reductions also occurred in the engineer regiment and to a lesser degree in the transportation company of light vehicles. The released personnel were transferred as units with their materiel from Podelenie [redacted] to new artillery units in Samokov and Radomir. The new units were composed of units released from other tank divisions. Some individual soldiers from the 9 Tank Division were transferred in February and March 1955 to an artillery unit four kilometers outside of Sofia in the direction of Samokov, to a howitzer regiment in Pleven, and to unidentified units around Dimitrovgrad and Khaskovo.

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b. There was no change in tank strength, which was approximately 80.

c. The greatest changes occurred in the Howitzer Artillery Regiment, Podelenie [redacted] which was composed of three battalions, each of which had three batteries. In late January 1955, one battalion with its equipment and materiel was transferred to Samokov to form part of an entirely new unit, which was completed there in February 1955. (See para a above). One battery from each of the remaining two battalions was transferred to Radomir. In February and March 1955, the other

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two battalions of Podelenie [] were composed of only two batteries plus an additional cadre battery, which was composed of only officer personnel and equipment. The cadre battery was to be filled with mobilized reserves for two-month training periods. Thus the strength of Podelenie [] was reduced from about 675 to about 345.

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2. During April and May 1955, approximately 35 new tanks arrived in three shipments. These tanks were believed to be of Czech make. They replaced the T-34 tanks, which were sent elsewhere. The new tanks arrived from the direction of Plovdiv, were unloaded in the Gorna Banya railroad station, and were taken for storage to nearby garages. They were not used.

3. All motor vehicles of Podelenie [] were changed and 36 new ZIS 151 trucks replaced all the ZIS 150 trucks (12 trucks were sent to Samokov and 24 to Radomir). Some of the new ZIS 151 trucks had only driven 100 kilometers. The ZIS 5 trucks in Podelenie [] were replaced by 12 new ZIS 151 trucks. These new trucks will carry the new AA guns, which were expected imminently in Podelenie []. The new guns, which are larger than the 45 mm guns and will replace the latter, are equipped with special sighting gears.

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Miscellaneous Information on 9 Tank Brigade

4. An underground ammunition depot belonging to the 9 Tank Brigade (formerly the 9 Tank Division), Podelenie [] is located in a restricted zone about one kilometer northeast of Sukhodol in a place known as Malka Konyuvitsa (N 42-42, E 23-15). Hand grenades were also stored in this depot.

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5. Around the end of April 1955, when the last group of troops of Podelenie [] returned from leave, Major Yordanov (fnu), Commander of Podelenie [], announced an order from Lt. Col. Stefanov (fnu), Commander of the 9 Tank Brigade, which cancelled all home and Sunday leaves for a period of 3 months. No explanation for the cancellation of leave was given and most of the troops believed that it was in preparation for some imminent military maneuvers. However, during May 1955, troops from Podelenie [] were given leave. [] troops from other units who took leave during April [] the order cancelling leaves in Podelenie [] was only a local measure.

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6. Late in April 1954 an incident of sabotage was discovered in the 9 Tank Division (later 9 Tank Brigade). Sand was put in the bearings of a tank undergoing repair and the bearings were damaged as soon as the tank left the repair shop.

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Miscellaneous Military Information

7. AA units can be seen on almost every hill around Sofia. [] the following 13 or 14 AA batteries around Sofia:

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a. Two batteries around Gorna Banya;

b. Two batteries west of Podelenie []

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c. Three batteries at Malka Konyuvitsa;

d. One battery on the slope of a hill north of the "Kliment Voroshilov" Low Current Equipment Plant;

e. Two batteries south and near Durvenitsa;

f. One battery and searchlight above Knyazhevo and about two kilometers south of Vitesha;

g. One battery and searchlight about two kilometers north of the lodge called Bulgariya; and

h. One and one-half batteries near the gasoline depot of Podelenie [] southeast of Sukhodol.

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8. There is one AAA regiment stationed in Dimitrovgrad. One battery of this unit is located in front of the main gates of the "Vulko Chervenkov" TETs (Steam-Heat and Electric Power Station) and the "Stalin" Chemical Combine and along the road connecting these two plants with the highway from the Dimitrovgrad railroad station and the Maritsa Bridge. On the roofs of the TETs and the Combine there are about 11 and 15-20 DShK Heavy Machine Guns respectively. Other batteries around Dimitrovgrad are:
- One-half battery in the Gavura locality on a hill south of the railroad;
 - One battery above the Factory and Plant School in Dimitrovgrad;
 - One battery about one kilometer north of the "Vulkan" Cement Plant;
 - One battery northwest of the Dimitrovgrad prison; and
 - One battery southwest of the Tolbukhin Kvartal (Ward) and the airfield of the Voluntary Organization for Defense Cooperation.
9. In late January 1955, an unidentified mountain artillery regiment moved to an unknown destination from barracks in Samokov. These barracks were occupied by a new artillery unit formed by a battalion from Podelenie [] and units from other tank divisions. 25X1
10. The rifle division in Silistra remained a division despite a strength decrease during February and March 1955.
11. In 1954-1955, changes occurred in the uniform of troops in tank brigades, especially in Podelenie []. The changes apply only to the cap and the collar of the blouse. 25X1
- In the autumn of 1954, all tank troops received the Soviet-type cap called "Ushanki Kalpatai" (rolled cap with flaps). This cap replaced the old "Kepeta", which was of brown cloth and also had flaps.
 - In the summer of 1954, the "Rubashka" blouse was replaced by the "Gimnast-yorki" blouse, which has a high-buttoned collar. The new blouse is worn in summer and winter. By the summer of 1955, Podelenie [] completed the change to the new blouse. 25X1
12. According to a soldier in Podelenie [] who had been a civilian worker in one of the Kazanluk munitions plants which produces Soviet F-1 and RPG-6 hand grenades, the munitions plants in Kazanluk also produce shells and bullets. Podelenie [] used Soviet F-1 and RPG hand grenades made in Kazanluk. 25X1
13. According to an order of the Ministry of People's Defense, every military officer, no matter what his rank or duty, whose services were required by any TKZS (cooperative labor farm) or MTS was to be discharged and sent to the TKZS or MTS. One officer of Podelenie [] was sent to northern Bulgaria to become chairman of a TKZS. [] this governmental measure was taken to improve the work of the TKZS. 25X1
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- Simulated Atomic and Gas Maneuvers
14. An unknown number of Soviet advisers commanded and observed the 15-day simulated atomic and gas warfare maneuvers in late September 1954 in the Ikhtiman and Samokov area. Of the Soviet advisers, [] one Colonel and one Lieutenant Colonel, and he heard that a Soviet General was also present. 25X1
15. Tractors were requisitioned from MTS and used for carrying the guns during the maneuvers. In addition to the atomic and gas warfare exercises, the troops were also trained in attacking, advancing, taking defense positions, etc. During the maneuvers, troops from one unit were not permitted to

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communicate with those from other units.

16. During phase one of the maneuvers, zig-zag personnel trenches and gun trenches were dug. The gun trenches were deep enough to contain the guns below the surface of the ground.
17. Before the simulated atomic and gas attacks by air, troops were told whether aircraft were attacking with atom bombs or gas. In each case, chemical troops, dressed in rubber suits, sprayed water on guns. Troops were forbidden to touch the guns after each attack.
18. Following the maneuvers when the participating units were returning to their respective areas, an accident occurred on the Sofia-Burgas railroad. One of the cars, on a Burgas-bound train which was carrying tanks, collapsed under the weight of a tank. The tank fell through the flooring of the car and caused the wreckage of the cars behind. As a result of this accident, one Major from Plovdiv and several troops were killed and other troops were hurt.

Artillery Exercises in Sofia Okoliya

19. During the seven-day exercises, the artillery positions were situated near the permanent summer camp of the artillery regiment in Pleven (sic) on the Blato River. The participating units were mainly heavy artillery units and some mortar, antitank, and AA units. Some of the participating units were:
 - a. Howitzer Artillery Regiment, Podelenie [redacted] 25X1
 - b. A unit from Samokov (probably a mountain artillery unit with horses);
 - c. A unit from Stara Zagora with 105 mm Belgian Howitzers;
 - d. A heavy artillery regiment from Pleven (from the nearby camp);
 - e. Rocket launchers from Pleven (from the nearby summer camp);
 - f. An antitank company from the 9 Tank Division (now 9 Tank Brigade);
 - g. A new howitzer regiment stationed four kilometers from Sofia in the direction of Samokov. This regiment had 120 mm guns similar to those of Podelenie [redacted] but of a newer model; 25X1
 - h. A unit with rocket (reaktivni) mortars from Sofia; and
 - i. Several rifle regiments acting as the "enemy" or as guards of the area.

Recruit Classes

20. All of the 1933 and 1934 recruit classes are now serving. The 1932 class expects to be discharged in the autumn of 1955. Although the first call-up of the 1932 recruit class in the Frontier Troops was discharged four months early and the second call-up is also expected to be discharged early, there was no rumor of a reduction in the service term of the tank troops. Informant heard that the service term for Frontier Troops had been reduced by six months and that troops from the 1935 recruit class had been assigned to the Labor Service (Trudova Povinnost) in the spring of 1955.

Airfield Information

21. In January 1955, [redacted] five or six jet aircraft and other aircraft, as well as gates of underground hangars at the Kumaritsa Airfield. These hangars were located under a hill which is north of the airfield and about 600-700 meters from the concrete runway, which is about 500-600 meters wide and more than 1,000 meters long. 25X1
22. About every two hours a passenger plane lands at the Vrazhdebna Airfield, which is Sofia's main airfield. [redacted] also military aircraft were located on this field. 25X1

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23. [Redacted] passed Bozhurishte Airfield frequently on military exercises toward Slivnitsa. At one time [Redacted] saw about ten ordinary military aircraft, [Redacted] never saw jet aircraft or passenger planes.

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24. In 1952, the construction of a new airfield began in Dimitrovgrad, west of the Tolbukhin Kwartal and south of the Sofia-Svilengrad railroad line. After a small hangar and a gasoline depot were completed, construction was abandoned and the field was turned over to the Voluntary Organization for Defense Cooperation.

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25. [Redacted] an aircraft repair plant is located in Lovech.

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[Redacted]

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